



TRANMERE ROVERS 87-88

BARCLAYS LEAGUE - DIVISION FOUR
BOLTON WANDERERS
TUESDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 1987 - 7.30 p.m. Kick-off
Tonight's Match is Sponsored by: D. P. ROBERTS, HUGHES and DENYE (Solicitors)

Official
Programme
60p

John King's **TEAM TALK**



Good Evening and a warm welcome to Prenton Park to you all, especially the Bolton Directors, Phil Neal and his players and the expected legions of Bolton followers.

Though Bolton may regard themselves as the injured party in the wrangle over the postponed match in September, tonight's game gives us a chance to recover points which, we believe, were unfairly deducted for reasons beyond the control of the playing staff.

The match against Liverpool gave us an opportunity to measure the lads against some of the First Division's finest and I have to say that I felt we matched them and, indeed bettered, Liverpool in most departments. That we didn't score of course was partly due to losing our two principal strikers and not getting that bit of luck when chances came along.

You only had to see Phil Thompson's anger in the Tunnel at half time, to appreciate how we had rattled Liverpool and could have been three up, but for desperate goal-line clearances.

Nevertheless, when we lost Steel, I felt it was more important to try and keep our shape at the back than gamble on Ronnie moving up front. Besides, in training, Andy Thorpe can finish as well as anyone.

We travelled down to London on Friday, in preparation for the Leyton Orient match.

I'm a great believer in meticulous preparation for matches and in an ideal situation you shouldn't really expect players to give their best after long, tiring, Coach journeys. Having said that, it doesn't always work out and in the Fourth Division, you have to be realistic about the financial strain overnight stays impose.

Turning finally to the main talking point of the last week or so, the Maxwell take-over at Watford, I would like to offer a couple of thoughts.

Whatever Mr. Maxwell's motives, and one wonders just how many clubs he could buy if unchecked, no-one can say that he doesn't shake up clubs and provide finance for success – like he has at Oxford and Derby. Of course there are dangers, which the League will no doubt guard against, but as long as someone is prepared to take these clubs on board and guarantee their future. That is the important thing.

I hope you all enjoy the match and come along again on Friday.

Cheers,
JOHN KING



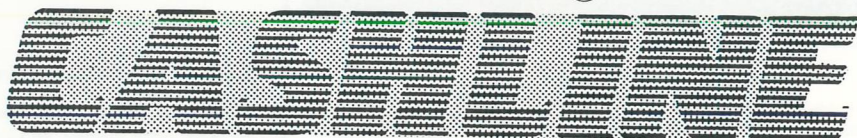
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*The Matchday Programme is designed, written and Edited by Peter Bishop
Contributors: Gary Doolan, Gil Upton and Bob Bird Photographers*

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IN DIFFERENT COLOURS

BOLTON WANDERERS

True followers of football everywhere must have been dismayed to see such a famous club as Bolton Wanderers dropping into the Fourth Division for the first time. Indeed, just 18 months ago, they were at Wembley for the Freight-Rover Final!

Formed as Christ Church F.C. in 1874, they were founder members of the Football League in 1888, but for the first few years of their membership they regularly shuffled between the First and Second Divisions.

Champions of the Second Division in 1909, they first won the F.A. Cup in 1923, beating West Ham 2-0 and won it again in 1926, 1929 and much later in 1958. They were also runners-up in 1894, 1904 and 1953. Between 1935 and 1964 though, Bolton were considered amongst the top First Division sides, with many famous players like Lofthouse, Wheeler (ex Rovers), Hopkinson and Higgins.

After 14 years in the wilderness, Ian Greaves steered Bolton back into the First Division, with a little help from Messrs Worthington and Reid, but the club failed to consolidate their position and so the spiral to Division Four started.

THEIR MANAGER

Phil Neal may have won every honour the game has to offer, bar the F.A. Cup and 50 England Caps, but he couldn't have endured a tougher baptism into Soccer Management, when Bolton were relegated last season.

Phil served Northampton, Liverpool and Bolton during an 18-year career in which he played over 700 matches. His assistant is former United number two, Mick Brown.

TRANSFERS

Failure in last season's play-offs and consequent relegation came as a desperate shock to Bolton. Despite the financial implications of that, Neal has spent **£115,000** plus to bring some new faces to Burnden Park, who he obviously believes can help steer Bolton back to the Third Division at the first time of asking.

The bulk of Neal's expenditure went on three forwards. **Trevor Morgan** cost **£20,000** from Bristol City, however, the former Mansfield, Exeter and Bristol Rovers striker has recently been displaced by Steve Elliott.

John Thomas's scoring form for Preston last season persuaded Neal to spend a further **£30,000** to secure the services of a player who once had a loan spell here while with Everton.

The return of **Jeff Chandler** to the midfield touchlines at Burnden Park was welcomed by most Bolton fans. He cost **£30,000** from newly-promoted Derby County, but was originally purchased in 1981 from Leeds for **£40,000**.

Phil Neal though has blended the big money signings with some astute free transfer captures. Defender **Dean Combie** and midfielder **Gary Henshaw** both arrived from Grimsby, while **Neil Whatmore's** return for a fourth spell at Bolton was sponsored by a mysterious benefactor. Neil has served Wanderers, Birmingham, Oxford, Burnley and Mansfield during his long career.

Phil Neal's most expensive buy though is former Liverpool reserve midfielder **Bobby Savage** - bought from Bradford on 9th September for a reported **£35,000** fee.

REST OF THE SQUAD

Over the last few years, Bolton have been regularly involved in the transfer market. Striker **Steve Elliott**, who has regained his place at the expense of Morgan in recent matches, cost **£25,000** from Walsall, while **David Felgate**, Bolton's keeper, was signed last season from Lincoln City for a **£16,000** fee.

Centre-half Dave Sutton, who was previously with Plymouth and Huddersfield, arrived at Burnden Park in 1985 for **£12,000**, the same season as versatile full-back **Derek Scott** was purchased from Burnley for **£20,000**. Bolton's recent midfield line-up though included two players who cost the club nothing, by graduating through the juniors.

Following the **£35,000** sale of Warren Joyce to Preston, Bolton have introduced 19-year-old **Nicky Brook**

IT'S A FACT!

- Bolton adopted the name "Wanderers" for a fairly obvious reason - they had no home ground and wandered from site to site until finally settling at Burnden Park in August, 1895.
- Bolton's ground was the inspiration behind L. S. Lowry's (Matchstick Men) famous painting: "Going to the Match".
- Our visitors are the only club to have won the F.A. Cup four times without conceding a goal in the Final. They also took part in the highest-scoring Final in 1953, when they lost 4-3 to Blackpool and played before the biggest-ever Wembley crowd (160,000) in the "White Horse Final" of 1923.
- During the War, in February, 1945, Nat Lofthouse scored seven goals in successive matches against us!



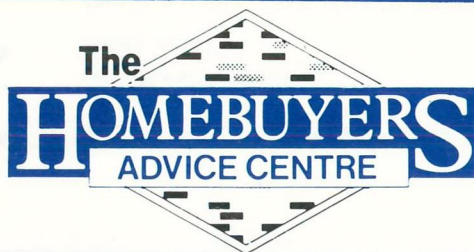
man to the first-team line-up, alongside free-kick and penalty specialist **Steve Thompson**, who has been a regular in the side for the past four years.

Mark Came, a solid central defender, signed from non-League Winsford, right-sided youngster **Julian Darby** and **Ian Stephens** (ex-Preston), complete the squad. Though mainly a full-back, Julian is currently playing in central midfield.

FORM GUIDE

Victory at Wrexham in the F.A. Cup, earned Bolton's passage to the Third Round, where they have drawn an away tie at Barnsley. In the League, Bolton have gradually got into their stride and look like one of the likely teams for promotion, providing they can bring some consistency to their performances.

Recent Results: Leyton Orient (H) 1-0; Burnley (A) (FAC) 1-0; Burnley (A) 1-2; Stockport (A) 3-1; Cambridge (H) 2-2; Wrexham (FAC) 2-1.



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WE'RE TALKING FOOTBALL.

*"It's worse than losing a war, a national crisis
of the highest magnitude."*

LORD WIGG.

after Poland had knocked out England, 1973.

"I suppose it will be an all-ticket match."

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER.

on being put into the reserves.

*"There is a rat in the camp trying to throw
a spanner in the works."*

CHRIS CATTLIN.

Brighton manager, 1983.



*"The best team always wins. The rest is only
gossip."*

JIMMY SIRREL.

Notts County manager, 1985.

NEWS & VIEWS

THE TALE OF EDDIE'S BOOTS . . .

When "Fast" Eddie Murray's "lucky" boots started to fail him, he asked Paula Hughes (hereafter known as the Chief Coffee Maker and Boot Cleaner) in the office, to write to Adidas, asking them if they could repair his favourites.

Tongue in cheek, Paula dropped a line, enclosing Eddie's tatty boots, to Adidas's Returns Department in West Yorkshire and, a few days later, a brand new pair of Adidas "Copar Mundial" boots arrived - compliments of the Company, together with the following poem from Mr. C. G. Wilson, their Distribution Manager:

Dear Miss Hughes,

Your letter received and understood -
Poor Eddie's boots are now no good -
Two studs are missing, the rest are worn,
We can see him, all forlorn.
Alas the boots we cannot repair
And it isn't because we do not care.
No doubt Tranmere need his skill
New boots he now will have to fill.
We will help in his quest for fame
And wish him well for the very next game,
For he will be wearing a brand-new pair
Sent by us - because we care!



Well done Adidas - nice to see a big company has a heart and a sense of humour.

DAVE MOVES ON

Rovers Stadium Manager and Head Groundsman **Dave Pinch**, who has been with the club three years, is leaving to take up a similar position at Wigan Athletic.

Dave's legacy to the club is the much-improved pitch, which he has lovingly nurtured since his arrival and, hopefully, the skill and knowledge he imparted to Assistant Groundsman Andy Quayle, should stand us in good stead for the future. On behalf of everyone at the club, we wish him all the very best in his new position. "Tha' should 'ave a reet good time up there cocker!"

MIXED CELEBRITY DINNER

Providing you book quickly, there are still a couple of places left for the Annual Mixed Celebrity Dinner on Thursday night. Apart from a top-class comedian, the Special Guests are: Cricket Umpire Dickie Bird and Radio Merseyside's lady with the laugh, Debbie Jones. Tickets for this event, which includes a superb five-course meal, cost £15 each.

DRAW TICKETS

If you haven't already bought tickets (10 pence each) for the Tranmere Rovers Supporters' Association's Christmas Draw, you have only tonight to buy some, as ticket stubs and cash have to be in by tomorrow.

CHRISTMAS DISCO PARTY

The Draw will be made on Saturday Night at the Christmas Disco and Buffet, which has been organised by T.R.S.A. The players themselves will be there to help the party along, so get your ticket (price £3.00) from the Main Shop or Club Offices.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT

So impressed with Ian Muir were Andy Barnard and Steve Radford from Oakham, Leicester, on their first visit to Prenton Park for the Newport match, the two decided there and then to sponsor Ian's boots for the rest of the season. Many Thanks lads, hope you continue to follow Rovers!

X-CERTIFICATE VIDEO!

Tempting fate to video the Liverpool match? I've never known anyone who called in a Video Film maker be on the winning side. They usually end up as "X" Certificate ratings which scare the life out of you!

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TURN BACK The Clock

1950 1960 1970 1980

by GIL UPTON

Although today is our first Division Four meeting with this famous and distinguished club, Bolton Wanderers have been coming to Birkenhead for over 100 years.

Our link begins in 1889, with the first of a series of Good Friday friendlies. Wanderers, by then professionals and founder members of the Football League, sent their reserve XI and won 4-2 before a 1,000 crowd. In the next three years, further Good Friday fixtures followed, with the scores 0-4, 3-1 and 1-0 and crowds of 3,000. Whilst helping to improve playing standards, there was valuable income for Rovers from the gate money too.



In 1892-83 and still amateurs, we joined the Lancashire Combination and met Wanderers reserves for the first time competitively. After a 1-0 home win in December, 1892, the following year, at Bolton's old Pikes Lane ground, we were thrashed 11-0, our biggest margin of defeat in a peacetime competitive match. Having left the Lancashire Combination at the end of 1893-94, we again welcomed them on Good Friday, 1895, the year they moved to Burnden Park, losing 2-5.

The next chapter takes us forward to 25th October, 1919. By now a professional club in the Central League, our first fixture was against our friends Bolton Wanderers, although still their reserves. The "Birkenhead News" was so excited by the event and the fact that Wirral's leading resident, Lord Leverhulme, came from Bolton, they suggested he be invited to kick off. Nothing did come of that and the game at Bolton ended 1-1.

Except for a Christmas Day friendly at Bolton in 1924 (losing 1-3) and War-time fixtures, our paths did not cross until the 1950's although, in the post-War years, our former player, Bill Ridding, was their successful Manager, who took them to the famous "Matthews Final" of 1953. In that team was Johnny Wheeler, signed from Rovers in 1951, who went on to play for England. On 19th April, 1955, Bill Ridding brought along his full Division One team, including Nat Lofthouse, as the attractive opposition in the Benefit Match for Harold Bell and Des Harlock.

Another 16 years passed before our next encounter on 24th September, 1971, when we drew 0-0 in Division Three. Since then, we have met three times in the League, twice in the F.A. Cup and once in the Freight-Rover Trophy and have yet to win a game!

5 YEARS AGO 14th December, 1982

A 2-1 Second Round F.A. Cup tie, with famed Cup battlers Telford United, earned us the prospect of a money-spinning clash with Wolves at Prenton Park. Telford went in front just before the break, when Mather seized on a Kevin Mooney back pass - ironically Mooney was a former Telford player!

But the handicap of playing with just 10 men - Antone Joseph was sent off in the 39th minute - proved too much and Rovers equalised in the 68th minute through John Aspinall. Biffo Griffiths netted Rovers winner in the 84th minute, to the relief of a 4,087 crowd.

10 YEARS AGO 16th December, 1977

A paltry pre-Christmas gate of 2,469 saw Rovers despatch Oxford United 4-1 at Prenton. Those that did turn up saw Rovers score four times in the first half - the first arriving after just 30 seconds, when Steve Peplow lobbed home. Ronnie Moore headed in the second on three minutes and Peplow added a third 10 minutes later, flicking the ball arrogantly past John Milkins.

Four minutes before Oxford were due an interval respite, Ronnie Moore's back-header gave them more to argue over. The rollicking they received did a little good, as Oxford tightened up in the second half and replied through Jason Seacole in the 70th minute.

FOR THE RECORD

Previous League Results:

1971-72, 0-0 (H), 0-1 (A)

1972-73, 1-1 (H), 0-2 (A)

Highest Attendance:

14,356, 1972, Division Three

Previous Cup Meetings:

F.A. Cup: 1983-84, 2-2 (H)

1-4 (A)

1986-87, 0-2 (A)

F.R.T. 1985-86, 1-2 (A)

Top Scorer in a single match:

Nat Lofthouse (3), 1945

THEY SERVED US BOTH

One of the earliest transfers between us involved winger **Harold Hilton** in 1910, who eventually returned in 1921. **Vince Matthews** came from Bolton in 1925, along with **Percy Thirkell**. Matthews went on to play for England. In 1950, **Vince Dillon** came to Prenton as **John Wheeler** went to Bolton. **Les Jones**, an inside forward between 1962 and '64 and **Richard Oxtoby** during the same era also came from Burnden Park. More recently, Frank Worthington, Graham Bell and Simon Farnworth (on loan) have served both clubs.

Bill Ridding played and coached here before moving to Bolton after the war.

15 YEARS AGO 15th December, 1972

In a one-sided match Rovers completely outclassed inept Rotherham but only scored twice through Tommy Young on 23 minutes and a Paul Crossley penalty two minutes from time.

That Rovers failed to score more goals is something of a mystery. Ian St. John instigated a series of penetrating attacks only for Loyden, Young and Crossley to squander the openings.

Bolton, meanwhile, were leading Division Three at that time and the following day, goals from Gary Jones, Paul Jones and John Byrom secured a splendid 3-2 success at Charlton Athletic.

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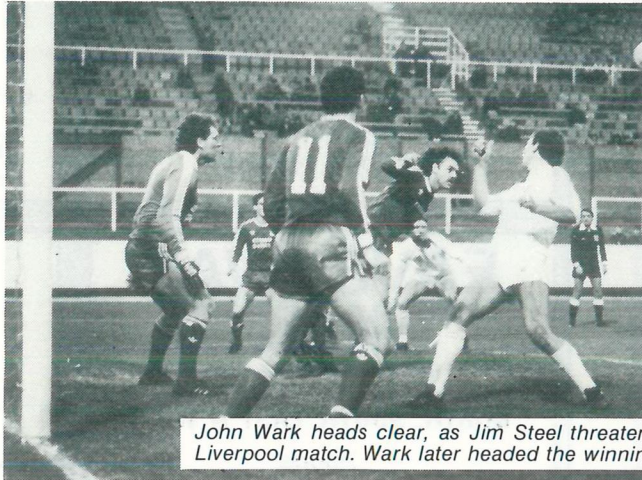
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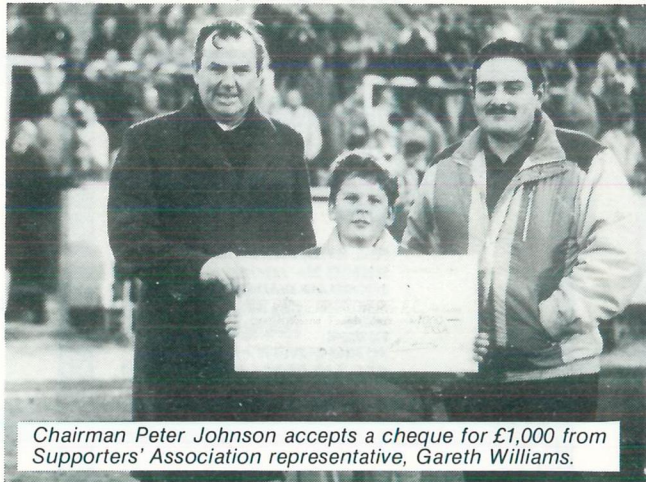
1. Can you name the only European club side to have played Rovers at Prenton Park?
2. Who played in the 1960 F.A. Cup Final for Blackburn Rovers nine months before signing for Rovers?
3. Who is the only player to have played first team football for all three Merseyside clubs.
4. Which Manager rejected Colin Clarke at one of his previous clubs?
5. Who did Dave Russell manage before joining Tranmere and which player did he bring with him?
6. In 1965, Dave Russell signed a 22-year-old Black Rhodesian winger but he went home without a first team outing, because it was too cold! Who was he?
7. Which former Rovers player is now Reserve Coach at Third Division Walsall?
8. Last season, three Scottish born players turned out for Rovers. Discounting Steve Mungal and Alan Hay, who was the third?
9. Which former Rovers player played at Wembley last season and climbed the steps to the Royal Box to collect silverware?
10. Following a cheeky advert last season, which Kitchen company wouldn't a Tranmere fan buy from?
11. How old was Matthew Darlington when his father enrolled him as a member of the Supporters' Association in March?
12. Which ex-Rovers defender won a Third Division Championship Medal last season?

Answers to be addressed to: "Trivia Quiz", Tranmere Rovers F.C., Prenton Park, Birkenhead and to be received not later than First Post, Monday, 21st December. In the event of a tie, winner to be drawn from a hat etc.

Please include home/business tel. no.



John Wark heads clear, as Jim Steel threatens. Wark later headed the winning goal in the Liverpool match. Wark later headed the winning goal.



Chairman Peter Johnson accepts a cheque for £1,000 from Supporters' Association representative, Gareth Williams.

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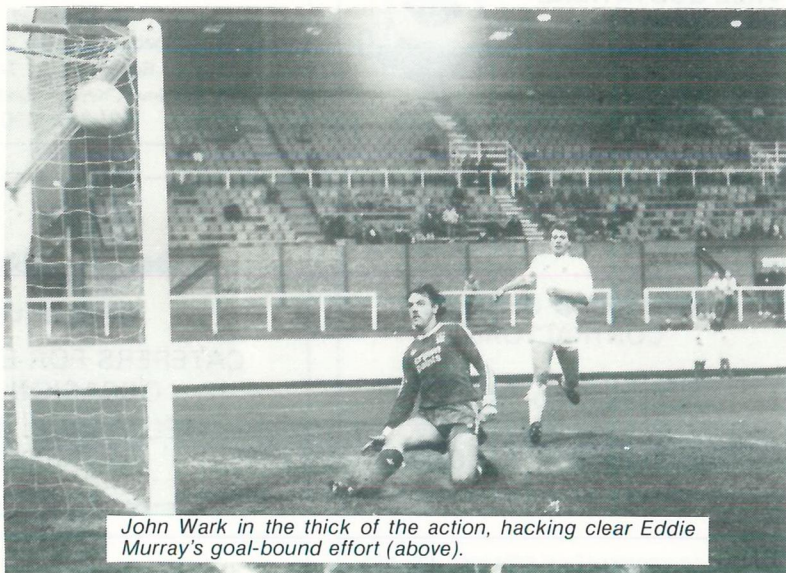
GAME



ns during the
ng goal.



Eddie Murray's goal-bound effort is stopped on the line by...



John Wark in the thick of the action, hacking clear Eddie Murray's goal-bound effort (above).



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TAILORS, OUTFITTERS AND ALTERATIONS

AT CLOSE RANGE

JOHN NORMAN



Position: Left Wing. **Age:** 17. **Status:** Y.T.S. trainee

Team you most admire and why: None in particular, like to see all Merseyside teams do well.

Best British XI: N. Southall, G. Stevens, T. Butcher, A. Hansen, K. Sansom, B. Robson, G. Hoddle, P. Beardsley, J. Barnes, I. Rush, G. Lineker.

Best sporting moment outside football: Coming second in a High Jump Contest between all Wirral Schools.

Your biggest fans: My Family.

Best Friend: Joey Oulton (old school mate).

Any superstitions: None.

What scares you: My Mum when I come in late on Saturday nights.

Who or what makes you laugh: Mark Brady heading the ball.

What makes you angry: Bad passing and sloppy control.

Any personal faults: Too quiet.

Biggest risk you've taken in your life: Going in for a tackle with Shaun Garnett (Tommy).

Your favourite possession: All my Schoolboy Medals.

If you could win just one footballing honour, which would it be: F.A. Cup Medal.

If you could choose one person to play alongside you, who would it be and why: Glenn Hoddle, because of his control and passing ability.

Apart from skill and fitness, what special qualities makes a professional footballer: A good attitude, dedication and temperament.

What frustrates you about your own ability: Lack of strength.

Your most memorable performance to date for Rovers (or previous sides): All games are memorable.

Favourite spare-time activity or hobby: Snooker, Tennis and Drawing.

Funniest situation you've ever seen at a football match: While playing a Sunday League game, the Referee jumped on his bike at half time and rode off down the road. He arrived back 15 minutes later smelling of beer, saying he thought the game had finished. The game continued, but stopped 10 minutes later because he kept falling over, rotten drunk!

How would you reduce or even stop football hooliganism: Jail them for a long period.



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PRESS BOX

John Troup takes an off-beat look
at the Fourth Division this season

After what has been arguably the most disappointing start to a season in recent memory for Tranmere Rovers, the fortunes of John King's men have finally taken a deserved turn for the better.

A Board which has kept its promises and spent money on quality players and a set of loyal supporters who have ignored poor results to make Rovers one of the best supported sides in the Fourth so far, have combined to create an aura of optimism at Prenton Park.

Casting Rovers inevitable surge towards the promotion places aside, who else is likely to figure in the front-running after the hectic festive period - graveyard of so many promotion aspirations?

Wolves cannot be ignored. Watching football at Molineux though is still one of the biggest risks a soccer fan can take. It has been said the Visitors Enclosure at Molineux has a disappearance record for innocent people which would be the envy of any Central American dictatorship. Having spent money on proven players to bolster their title hopes, I expect the latent soccer giants of the West Midlands to secure a top four place.

Top scoring Orient, Rovers host last Saturday, must fancy their chances as well. Heading the League's charts for team marksmanship, they always cause problems for sides devoid of skill - and there are plenty of those in the Fourth. Having recovered from a bizarre training accident involving a hi-projectile Mitre football, Manager Frank Clark looks set to lead the South Londoners back to the higher grade of football where they belong.

I still can't believe boring Cardiff and truculent Torquay are making a serious challenge for the top - with all due respect, Torquay could not have got any worse and Cardiff look certain to disappoint their long-suffering fans again.

Scarborough, whose presence in the League has brought seaside fisticuffs, the smell of Ralgex and kick-and-rush football to a hitherto beautiful town, have found it difficult to keep the momentum going, slipping from pole position to sixth, with a dismal sequence of draws.

Teams like Colchester and Peterborough are finally beginning to find their feet again. Having always been the bridesmaids as far as promotion was concerned, both teams have had a torrid time in the past two seasons.

If the administrator at London Road can keep the vultures from proud Posh, we might be able to look forward to another "skill team" in amongst the mid-table dross.

Burnley, having suffered permanent Tranphobia in recent Cup competitions, rose from mediocrity to knock us out of the Freight-Rover Trophy. They also pinched a late winner at Prenton Park in the League, human broom Paul Comstive notching his winner, while the attendant in the Borough Road Gulf Garage was turning off the diesel pump.

Underneath the lump of faceless teams in mid-table, are two fabulous character sides.

On the march Rovers recent form boost has left strugglers Newport and Rochdale for dead.

Newport are displaying all the signs of Tranmere (1982-83 style), relying on local amateurs and the dedication of a small but loyal band of followers to haul them from disaster.

Rochdale, the team Lincoln supporters love to hate, are still hanging on. Having suffered from the ill-effects of comic duo Gray and Ball, they are halfway towards sorting themselves out.

Lyndon Simmonds, now recovered from a deserved backside despatcher from Bruno McCarrick at Spotland, is their main influence and his skills could grace any of the sides in the Fourth.

We must not criticise them too much, for they knocked us out of the Littlewoods Cup and their snack bars serve the most amazing Northern pie and peas!

And so to Rovers - Casting aside understandable bias, there is a real feeling of optimism now that big Jim Steel has blasted his way on to the scene. The real-life nice guy, who terrorises defenders for a hobby, is what Rovers fans have been screaming for and once him and Ian Muir click, we should be chasing Orient for Barclays goals prize money.

Here's to freezing-cold Winter Friday's, Ian Muir hat-tricks and a meteoric rise up the table!



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Rochdale - I.C.	Breaks Snooker Club	Display Services, Prenton
Exeter City	Breaks Snooker Club	Display Services, Prenton
Burnley	Blakes of Birkenhead	Bass (North West) Ltd.
Cardiff City	Focus Photographic Studios	Famous Army Stores (Birkenhead)
Rochdale	Advertising Design Services	Balfour Beatty Building
Swansea City	Burmah Castrol (UK) Ltd. P.F.D.	Famous Army Stores (Birkenhead)
Burnley (F.R.T.)	Hoylake Carpets	Offley Bros., Ellesmere Port
Cambridge United	B.P. Bonnar Mortgage Consultants	The Himalaya Restaurant
Wrexham	Chester Motor Auction	Berkson and Berkson - Solicitors
Port Vale (F.A.C.)	John and Tony Davies	Northern Dairies Ltd.
Newport County	Nigel Hughes - Supporter	Chemical and Technical Services
Bolton Wanderers	Wirral News	D. P. Roberts, Hughes & Denye (Solicitors)
Colchester United	Wirral Borough Council (Leisure Services)	
Peterborough United	Corniche Travel Ltd.	
Stockport County	Cheshire Club Supplies	
Halifax Town	Burmah Castrol (UK) Ltd. P.F.D.	Ethel Austin & Co. Ltd.
Crewe Alexandra	Carlett Dairies	
Scarborough	Chester Glazing	McCain Foods (G.B.) Ltd.
Scunthorpe United	The Plumb Center	Royal Bank of Scotland
Darlington	Nigel Hughes - Supporter	Chester Glazing
Wolverhampton Wanderers	Hoylake Ford	Bluebird Confectionery
Carlisle United	Wirral Borough Council (Leisure Services)	Bon Cuisine
Hartlepool United	Murphy's Taxis	
Torquay United	Saunders Bros. Carpets	
Leyton Orient	Morris Edwards for Menswear	N. M. Rothschild and Son Ltd.

ROVERS SPONSORKIT 1987-88

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RESERVE REVUE

While the first team were locked in combat with Liverpool's reserve side in the Liverpool Senior Cup, the "A" team travelled to Gigg Lane in the morning to face Bury "A" and returned with a 3-1 victory.

The match had been hastily arranged, following a late cry-off by Liverpool "A", however, we made an excellent start when **Kenny McKenna** drove home the opening goal after 20 minutes play.

Bury equalised 15 minutes later, when awarded a free kick after Stuart Alexander was forced to handle out of his area.

Almost immediately, Kenny McKenna responded with a 30-yard drive which whistled into the net, but the referee called back play to speak to a linesman who had spotted a bit of fisticuffs between John Smith and a Bury player on the half-way line. He sent both players off.

"I'm not disputing that Smith shouldn't have been sent off", said Warwick Rimmer, "But why stop play and wipe out a perfectly good goal, because of an unrelated incident elsewhere on the park? He could have awarded the goal, then spoken to the players".

Nevertheless, **John Aspinall** did score the second, after some tremendous goalmouth scrambles and **Steve Morrissey** made it safe after a nice 1-2 with substitute Gillan.

Team: Alexander, Hughes M., Williams, Garnett, Bauress, Smith, Irons, Aspinall, Malkin, McKenna, S. Morrissey. **Sub:** Gillan for Malkin (Inj.).

"B" TEAM NEWS

On 5th December, the "B" team gained a little revenge for their F.A. Youth Cup exit, with a 4-2 success over Crewe "B" at Keele University. Three up by half time, despite playing up the slope, Coach Alex Muir was annoyed that we lost our grip in the second half and could have ended up squandering a four-goal cushion.

Tony Thomas rifled in the first at the near-post, with the Crewe keeper at fault and **Scoggins** lobbed a second soon after, with the home keeper again out of position.

The keeper atoned for his errors, when saving Mark Brady's penalty kick, but could do nothing about **John Norman's** left-foot rocket for the third goal before the interval.

Ten minutes into the second half, **Neil Ellis**, who also scored Avenue's F.A. Sunday Cup winner the following day, scored a superb solo goal for number four.

But then our good play fell apart. Crewe pulled back one goal, missed a penalty (which was well-saved by Downey) and scored a second on 76 minutes to give us some uncomfortable final minutes.

Team: Downey, Thomas, Walker, Cairns, Hughes, Scoggins (Pullin), Tarpey, Brady, Berry, Ellis, Norman. **Sub:** Donnelly (not used).

A-Z OF ROVERS

BARRY DYSON



Barry who? asked Rovers fans when Dave Russell recruited a 19-year-old winger, Barry Dyson, with no first team experience, from his former club, Bury.

Yet within four years of his arrival, Dyson had become Rovers top post-war marksman with 99 League goals (110 in all).

But the goals only started to flow during his first season, 1962-63, when he was switched from outside left to inside, where he was closer to partners John Manning or Dave Hickson.

1963-64 season saw Barry heading the scoring charts with 30 League and Cups, but in 1966 he even topped that tally to break the 30 League goal barrier for the first time since "Bunny" Bell in 1935-36.

When Dyson, on the transfer list at his own request, finally joined Crystal Palace on 13th September, 1966 for £15,000, it didn't prevent Rovers securing promotion to the Third Division at the end of the season.

Curiously, Dyson was to twice more miss out on promotion with subsequent clubs! In October, 1967, Dyson moved on to Watford and in December, 1968, he went on to Orient. At the end of that season Palace were promoted from the Second and Watford were champions of the Third!

Dyson finally helped Orient to top the Third Division in 1970, before moving on to Colchester, where he lives today, running a haulage business.



DRESSING ROOMS

One wonders what the users of Rovers original dressing rooms, once called Salem Cottage, over in the far corner of the ground near the Prenton Hotel, would have made of the luxurious facilities under the Main Stand today.

That spartan hut was finally demolished in 1937 and replaced with a more modern brick and wood building at the rear of the Kop - roughly on the site of the present Sports Centre alongside the old Social Club.

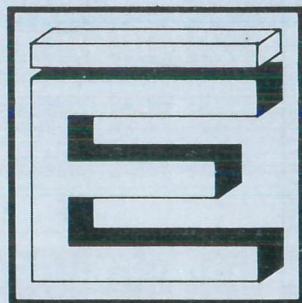
They stood for 30 years until demolished in the wake of the present modern Grandstand, opened in 1968, with its spacious changing facilities, showers, bath and toilets.



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STATS 1987-8

Key: Figures against names indicates scorers.

*First Sub. °Second Sub. Goalscorers in Bold Type. + Own Goal. SO Sent Off.

Date	Opponents	Event	Score	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
AUG. 87																	
Sat 15	Scunthorpe	+1	0-3	2,277	O'Rourke	McCarrick	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Martindale*	Craven	Mungall	Muir	Morrissey	McKenna*	Hall
Fri 16	Sheff Wed		0-1	2,829	O'Rourke	McCarrick SO	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Martindale	Craven	McKenna	Muir	Morrissey	McKenna*	Hall
Fri 21	Hereford	+1	0-1	2,829	O'Rourke	McCarrick	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Martindale	Craven	McKenna	Muir	Morrissey	McKenna*	Hall
Tues 21	Rochdale		1-0	2,314	O'Rourke	McCarrick	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Mungall	Craven	McKenna	Muir	Morrissey	Hall	Way*
Fri 28	Stockport		2-1	2,229	O'Rourke	McCarrick	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Mungall	Craven	McKenna	Muir	Morrissey	Hall	Jones
Mon 31	Exeter		-2-1	3,107	O'Rourke	McCarrick	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Mungall	Craven	McKenna	Muir	Morrissey	Aspinall*	Malin*
SEPT.																	
Sat 5	Scunthorpe		0-2	2,882	O'Rourke	Mungall	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Aspinall	Craven	McKenna	Muir	Murray*	Malin*	Hall
Fri 11	Barnley		0-1	2,882	O'Rourke	Mungall	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Aspinall	Craven	McKenna	Muir	Murray*	Malin*	Hall
Tues 15	Grews Alex		0-0	1,839	O'Rourke	Mungall SO	McCarrick	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey	Williams	McKenna	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Murray
Fri 18	Hallifax		1-2	1,754	O'Rourke	Mungall	McCarrick	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey	Williams	McKenna	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Murray
OCT.																	
Sat 3	Cardiff		0-1	2,543	O'Rourke	Mungall	McCarrick	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey	Williams	McKenna	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Murray
Fri 9	Darlington		0-0	1,612	O'Rourke	Higgins	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey*	Martindale	Malin*	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Higgins
Tues 13	Rochdale	FRT	0-0	920	O'Rourke	Mungall	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey*	Harvey	Malin*	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Higgins
Sat 17	Wolves		0-3	6,608	O'Rourke	Mungall	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey	Harvey	Malin*	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Higgins
Sat 20	Swansea		2-2	2,110	O'Rourke	Mungall	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey	Harvey	Malin*	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Higgins
Sat 24	Sheff Wed		1-0	2,110	O'Rourke	Mungall	Williams	Hughes	Thorpe	Vickers	Morrissey	Harvey	Malin*	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Higgins
Tues 27	Burnley	FRT	1-2	1,801	O'Rourke	Mungall	McCarrick	Hughes	Hughes*	Vickers	Morrissey	Harvey	Malin*	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Higgins
Fri 30	Cambridge		0-1	2,240	O'Rourke	Mungall	McCarrick	Martindale	Hughes*	Vickers	Morrissey	Harvey	Malin*	Muir	Aspinall	Craven	Higgins
NOV.																	
Tues 3	Torquay		0-1	2,512	O'Rourke	Higgins	McCarrick	Martindale	Hughes*	Vickers	Mungall	Harvey	Moore	Muir	Murray	Craven*	Williams
Sat 7	Wrexham		2-0	4,039	O'Rourke	Higgins	McCarrick	Mart dale	Williams	Vickers	Mungall	Harvey	Moore	Muir	Murray	Craven*	Williams
Sat 14	Port Vale	+1	2-3	4,039	O'Rourke	Higgins	McCarrick	Mart dale	Williams	Vickers	Mungall	Harvey	Moore	Muir	Murray	Craven*	Williams
Mon 16	Hartlepool	+ (R)	+2-1	2,507	O'Rourke	Higgins	McCarrick	Martindale	Moore	Vickers	Mungall	Harvey	Steel	Muir	Murray	Craven*	Williams
Sat 21	Newport		0-1	3,252	Chamb'l'n	Higgins	McCarrick	Martindale	Moore	Vickers	Mungall	Harvey	Steel	Muir	Murray	Craven*	Williams
DEC.																	
Sat 5	Liverpool	LSC	0-1	2,305	Chamb'l'n	Higgins	McCarrick	Martindale	Moore	Vickers	Mungall	Harvey	Steel	Muir	Murray	Craven*	Williams
Sat 12	Orient		1-3	3,684	Chamb'l'n	Higgins	McCarrick	Martindale	Moore	Vickers	Mungall	Harvey	Steel	Muir	Murray	Craven*	Williams
JAN. 88																	
Fri 15	Colchester																
Sat 16	Colchester																
Sat 22	Cardiff																
Sat 26	Peterboro*																
FEB.																	
Sat 6	Scunthorpe																
Sat 13	Scunthorpe																
Sat 20	Darlington																
MARCH																	
Fri 26	Scunthorpe																
Tues 1	Bolton																
Tues 15	Bolton																
Sat 19	Hereford																
Sat 23	Hallifax																
Sat 27	Cardiff																
Sat 30	Exeter																
APRIL																	
Sat 5	Scunthorpe																
Sat 12	Wolves																
Sat 19	Wolves																
Sat 26	Cambridge																
Fri 25	Carlisle																
MAY																	
Sat 2	Wrexham																
Sat 9	Hartlepool																
Sat 16	Wrexham																
Sat 23	Torquay																
Sat 30	Newport																
MAY																	
Mon 2	Orient																
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TODAY'S REFEREE

Terry Holbrook is the General Manager of a Manufacturing and Service Company in the West Midlands.

Appointed to the Football League seven years ago, after making his way through the Staffordshire and Central Leagues.

An enthusiastic tennis and squash player, Terry was a linesman in the European Nations Cup in 1982 and was in the middle for one of last season's F.A. Vase Semi-Finals. In his spare time he enjoys gardening.

Next Match at Prenton Park BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR Tranmere Rovers v. Colchester Utd.

**FRIDAY,
18th DECEMBER**
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Matchday Music courtesy of
Rox Records, Wallasey

STATS EXTRA

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIV. ONE

	Result		Result
7 Aug. 87 Stockport County Res.	1-3	28 Oct. 87 Everton A	
15 Aug. 87 Burnley Res.	0-2	30 Oct. 87 Chester City Res.	2-2
26 Aug. 87 Bolton Wanderers A	1-0	7 Nov. 87 Preston North End A	2-2
29 Aug. 87 Bury Res.	3-2	21 Nov. 87 UMIST	6-1
5 Sep. 87 Bolton Wanderers A	2-2	28 Nov. 87 Manchester Utd. A	8-2
12 Sep. 87 Carlisle Utd. Res.	3-3	5 Dec. 87 Bury A	3-1
14 Sep. 87 Rochdale Res.	2-1	12 Dec. 87 Marine Res.	1-1
19 Sep. 87 Morecambe Res.	2-0	19 Dec. 87 Marine Res.	
3 Oct. 87 Alsager College	2-0	26 Dec. 87 Stockport County Res.	
10 Oct. 87 Everton A	1-5	2 Jan. 88 Burnley Res.	
24 Oct. 87 Accrington Stan. Res.	2-2	9 Jan. 88 Rochdale Res.	
		16 Jan. 88 Bury Res.	

30 Jan. 88 Carlisle U. Res.	
6 Feb. 88 Morecambe Res.	
13 Feb. 88 Crewe Alexandra A	
20 Feb. 88 Alsager College	
5 Mar. 88 Manchester City A	
12 Mar. 88 Accrington St. Res.	
12 Mar. 88 Chester City Res.	
24 Mar. 88 Preston North End	
2 Apr. 88 South Liverpool Res	
9 Apr. 88 UMIST	
16 Apr. 88 Manchester Utd. A	
23 Apr. 88 Liverpool A	

T.R.F.C. GAMES AND GOALS 1987-88

	Tranmere Life Career	1987-88 League	1987-88 Cups
	App (Sub)	Goals	App (Sub) Goals
Aspinall	111 (8)	26	11 (1) 1 (1)
Chamberlain	3	3	—
Craven	112 (13)	17	6 (5) —
Grierson	4	—	—
Hall	(1)	—	—
Harvey	9	1	9 (1) 1 5
Higgins	33 (3)	1	6 (2) —
Hughes	84 (2)	1	16 —
McCarrick	14	1	14 —
McKenna	13 (3)	3	11 (1) 3 1 (1)
Malkin	3 (2)	2	3 (2) 2 5
Martindale	8	2	—
Moore	289	78	6 6 —
Morrissey	77 (9)	14	12 (2) 2 4 (2)
Muir	92 (5)	41	19 7
Mungall	288 (10)	6	19 7
Murray	8 (3)	1	8 (3) 1 3
O'Rourke	48	17	3 6
Steel	3	1	—
Thorpe	51 (1)	—	—
Vickers	56 (1)	3	3 (1) 1
Williams	159 (2)	16	16 (2) 6

MERCANTILE LEAGUE, DIVISION FOUR As at Sunday, 29th November, 1987

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Tran. Rovers	4	3	1	0	7	2	9
Leyton Orient	4	3	1	0	6	3	9
Wolverhampton	4	3	1	0	6	3	9
Swansea City	3	3	1	0	8	6	9
Cardiff City	4	2	0	2	7	5	8
Colchester Utd.	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Torquay Utd.	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Stockport Utd.	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Stockport City	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Wrexham	4	2	2	0	9	4	6
Scarborough	4	1	1	2	5	3	6
Crewe Alex.	4	1	1	2	5	3	6
Scunthorpe U.	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Halifax Town	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Cambridge Utd.	4	1	2	1	3	4	4
Harlepool Utd.	4	1	2	1	7	0	4
Carlisle Utd.	4	1	2	1	6	9	4
Rochdale	4	1	2	1	2	5	4
Hereford Utd.	4	1	2	0	6	3	4
Peterborough U	3	1	2	0	4	3	3
Exeter City	3	1	2	0	4	5	3
Darlington	3	1	1	3	0	4	3
Burnley	4	1	3	0	3	1	3
Newport City	4	0	4	0	2	10	0

LINE UP

TRANMERE ROVERS

(All White)

- 1 Alec CHAMBERLAIN
- 2 Dave HIGGINS
- 3 Mark McCARRICK
- 4 Dave MARTINDALE
- 5 Ronnie MOORE
- 6 Steve VICKERS
- 7 Steve MUNGALL
- 8 Jimmy HARVEY
- 9 Jim STEEL
- 10 Kenny McKENNA
- 11 Eddie MURRAY
- 12 John MORRISSEY
- 13 Gary WILLIAMS

IN CHARGE TODAY:

Referee: TONY HOLBROOK Walsall

Linesmen: H. D. Hutchinson *Red Trim*

S. Taylor — *Yellow Trim*

Standby: G. Bell

BOLTON

(Red)

- 1 David FELGATE
- 2 Derek SCOTT
- 3 Dean CROMBIE
- 4 Robbie SAVAGE
- 5 Mark CAME
- 6 Dave SUTTON
- 7 Nicky BROOKMAN
- 8 Steve THOMPSON
- 9 John THOMAS
- 10 Steve ELLIOT
- 11 Julian DARBY
- 12 Ian STEPHENS
- 13 Trevor MORGAN

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